

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An industrial ~~belt~~fabric used in making nonwoven textiles in the airlaid, meltblown or spunbonding processes comprising a conductive engineered fabric comprising a plurality of polymeric filaments having one or more C-shaped grooves with a mouth having a width less than the width of a central portion of the groove formed therein, wherein each filament includes electrically conductive polymer material incorporated as either a blend or a coating that substantially fills the C-shaped grooves, said conductive fabric having static dissipation properties comparable to metal-based fabrics whilst being resistant to dents and creases and wherein the one or more C-shaped grooves allow for continued exposure of the conductive polymer to the filament surface as the monofilament wears so that the filament retains its conductivity.

2. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the functional filaments constitute between five and one hundred percent of the fabric.

3. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fabric has static dissipation properties equivalent to metal-based fabrics whilst also having physical properties comparable to non-conductive synthetic fabrics.

4. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 3, wherein said physical properties include one of modulus, tenacity, strength, adhesion, abrasion resistance, and durability.

5. (Withdrawn) The fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the filament comprises conductive polymer material blended with polymeric materials that can be oriented.

6. (Withdrawn) The fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the filament is a bicomponent fiber containing conductive polymer material and formed by melt extrusion.

7. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the filament comprises an oriented structure coated with conductive polymer material.

8. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 7, wherein the conductive polymer is applied by one of dip coating, spraying from solutions, dispersion over the filament, and thermal spraying.

9. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the filament comprises one hundred percent conductive polymer material selected from the class of polyanilines.

10. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 9, wherein said polyaniline filament has physical properties comparable to a polyamide filament.

11. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the filament is a lobed monofilament coated with conductive polymer material.

12. (Previously Presented) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein the coating has a conductivity, minimally greater than 10^{-3} S/cm, whilst maintaining the physical and tribological properties of the core monofilament.

13. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein the shape of the one or more C-shaped grooves provide a mechanical interlock between the monofilament and the conductive polymer filling the grooves.

14. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 13, wherein the interlock reduces a need for adhesion of the conductive polymer to the monofilament.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 13, wherein positioning of the conductive polymer in the C-shaped grooves shields the polymer and reduces the impact of its lesser abrasion resistance and physical properties.

17. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein the weight composition of the conductive material is ten percent or less of the total weight of the coated monofilament.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fabric is single layered , multi layered, or laminated.

20. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fabric is one of woven, nonwoven, spiral-link, MD or CD yarn arrays, knitted fabric, extruded mesh, and spiral wound strips of woven and nonwoven materials comprising yarns including monofilaments, plied monofilaments, multifilaments, plied multifilaments and staple fibers.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the fabric is used in a dry application in which static dissipation is required through a belting media.

23. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 1, wherein the conductive polymer is one of polyacetylene (PA), polythiophene (PT), poly(3-alkylthiophene) (P3AT), polypyrrole (Ppy), poly-isothianaphthene (PITN), poly(ethylene dioxythiophene (PEDOT), alkoxy-substituted poly(para-phenylene vinylene) (PPV), poly(para-phenylene vinylene) (PPV), poly(2,5-dialkoxy-para-phenylene), poly(paraphenylene) (PPP), ladder-type poly(para-phenylene) (LPPP), poly(para-phenylene) sulfide (PPS), polyheptadiyne(PHT), and poly(3-hexyl thiophene) (P3HT).

24. (Currently Amended) An industrial ~~belt~~fabric polymeric filament said polymeric filament having one or more C-shaped grooves with a mouth having a width less than the width of a central portion of the groove, wherein said C-shaped grooves are substantially filled with electrically conductive polymer material mechanically locked in place and wherein the one or more C-shaped grooves allow for continued exposure of the conductive polymer to the filament surface as the monofilament wears so that the filament retains its conductivity.

25. (Withdrawn) The filament in accordance with claim 24, wherein the filament comprises conductive polymer material blended with polymeric materials that can be oriented.

26. (Withdrawn) The filament in accordance with claim 24, wherein the filament is a bicomponent fiber containing conductive polymer material and formed by melt extrusion.

27. (Original) The filament in accordance with claim 24, wherein the filament comprises an oriented structure coated with conductive polymer material.

28. (Original) The filament in accordance with claim 27, wherein the conductive polymer is applied by one of dip coating, spraying from solutions, dispersion over the filament, and thermal spraying.

29. (Original) The filament in accordance with claim 24, wherein the filament comprises one hundred percent conductive polymer material selected from the class of polyanilines.

30. (Original) The filament in accordance with claim 29, wherein said polyaniline filament has physical properties comparable to a polyamide filament.

31. (Original) The filament in accordance with claim 24, wherein the filament is a lobed monofilament coated with conductive polymer material.

32. (Previously Presented) The filament in accordance with claim 31, wherein the coating has a conductivity, minimally greater than 10^{-3} S/cm, whilst maintaining the physical and tribological properties of the core monofilament.

33. (Previously Presented) The filament in accordance with claim 31, wherein the shape of the C-shaped grooves provide a mechanical interlock between the monofilament and the conductive polymer filling the grooves.

34. (Original) The filament in accordance with claim 33, wherein the interlock reduces a need for adhesion of the conductive polymer to the monofilament.

35. (Canceled).

36. (Previously Presented) The filament in accordance with claim 33, wherein positioning of the conductive polymer in the C-shaped grooves shields the polymer and reduces the impact of its lesser abrasion resistance and physical properties.

37. (Original) The filament in accordance with claim 31, wherein the weight composition of the conductive material is ten percent or less of the total weight of the coated monofilament.

38. (Original) The filament in accordance with claim 24, wherein the conductive polymer is one of polyacetylene (PA), polythiophene (PT), poly(3alkyl-thiophene) (P3AT), polypyrrole (Ppy), poly-isothia-naphthene (PITN), poly(ethylene dioxythiophene (PEDOT), alkoxy-substituted poly(para-phenylene vinylene) (PPV), poly(para-phenylene vinylene) (PPV), poly(2,5-dialkoxy-para-phenylene), poly(para-phenylene) (PPP), ladder-type poly(para-phenylene) (LPPP), poly(para-phenylene) sulfide (PPS), polyheptadiyne(PHT), and poly(3-hexyl thiophene) (P3HT).

39. (Currently Amended) The industrial ~~belt~~fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein the coating has a conductivity greater than 10^3 S/cm, whilst maintaining the physical and tribological properties of the core monofilament.

40. (Previously Presented) The filament in accordance with claim 31, wherein the coating has a conductivity greater than 10^3 S/cm, whilst maintaining the physical and tribological properties of the core monofilament.